

Message Text

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20

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-01

AF-06 EA-07 NEA-10 /113 W

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R 212305Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0693

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, CH, MX

SUBJECT: ICFTU WORLD CONGRESS: SPECIAL MISSION RETURNS FROM CHILE

REF: MEXICO 9220

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SUMMARY: ON OCTOBER 21, THE SPECIAL HIGH LEVEL ICFTU MISSION TO CHILE RETURNED TO MEXICO AFTER MEETING WITH CARDINAL SILVA AND OFFICIALS OF THE PEACE COMMITTEE IN SANTIAGO. THE UNEVENTFUL NATURE OF THE MISSION'S NINE-HOUR STAY IN THE CHILEAN CAPITAL HAS SOMEWHAT DIFFUSED THE CHILEAN ISSUE AT THE ICFTU WORLD CONGRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ICFTU'S SPECIAL MISSION TO CHILE HAS RETURNED TO MEXICO SOMEWHAT LESS THAN TRIUMPHANT DESPITE EFFORTS TO DRAMATIZE THE EVENT. THE FACT THAT THE MISSION WAS ALLOWED TO FREELY ENTER CHILE AND WAS ABLE TO HOLD ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCES WITH THE OPEN PARTICIPATION OF INTERNATIONAL AND CHILEAN JOURNALISTS, TURNED WHAT PROMISED TO BE AN EMOTIONAL HIGHLIGHT OF THE CONGRESS INTO A RATHER HUM-DRUM AFFAIR.

2. ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY KERSTEN, WHO HEADED THE MISSION, REPORTED TO THE CONGRESS THAT THE MEMBERS MET WITH OFFICIALS OF THE PEACE COMMITTEE, THE CARDINAL, THE BRITISH AND GERMAN AMBASSADORS AND WITH "DEMOCRATIC LEADERS" WHOSE NAMES HE COULD NOT DIVULGE. KERSTEN HAD EARLIER TOLD US THAT THE MISSION DID NOT MEET WITH ANY TRADE UNION OR POLITICAL PERSONALITIES. KERSTEN SAID THAT DISCUSSIONS IN CHILE CENTERED AROUND COORDINATION OF ICFTU AID TO THE FAMILIES OF TRADE UNION PRISONERS AND TRADE UNIONISTS WHO WERE KILLED IN THE AFTERMATH OF ALLENDE'S OVERTHROW. IN SANTIAGO THE DELEGATION WAS TRANSPORTED BY DIPLOMATIC CARS PROVIDED BY THE BRITISH EMBASSY. KERSTEN REPORTED THAT THERE WAS NO POLICE HARRASSMENT DURING THE MISSION'S NINE-HOUR STAY IN SANTIAGO EXCEPT DURING THEIR AIRPORT DEPARTURE WHEN THEIR BAGS WERE THOROUGHLY SEARCHED AND PERSONAL PAPERS OF MISSION MEMBER JACK JONES WERE CONFISCATED AND NOT RETURNED. KERSTEN MADE A CLUMSY EFFORT TO DRAMATIZE THE CONFISCATION IN HIS REPORT TO THE CONGRESS BUT IT FELL FLAT.

3. COMMENT: NO ONE WILL ADMIT IT BUT IT IS READILY APPARENT THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE UNDRAMATIC NATURE OF THE MISSION TO CHILE. IN HIS BRIEF REMARKS KERSTEN REFERRED THREE TIMES TO THE FACT THAT INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL JOURNALISTS WERE ABLE TO FREELY

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CONDUCT THEIR BUSINESS. THE ABSENCE OF ANY GOC REACTION TO THE MISSION'S PRESENCE IN CHILE EFFECTIVELY DEFLATED THE HOPES OF ITS AUTHORS, ALTHOUGH THE ICFTU HAS MANAGED TO GET SOME FAVORABLE INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY IN THE PROCESS.

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